GUIDE TO HSINCHING CAPITAL OF MANCHOUKUO

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JANUARY, 1940

HSINCHING CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

FOREWORD

This booklet has been prepared for the purpose of presenting foreign visitors in Hsinching as well as residents abroad with something more than a mere traveller's guide, in a form of interest to a wide sphere of readers, yet concise and convenient as a tourist's guide and source of information.

Mention must be made here that the name of the capital of Manchoukuo is herein spelled *Hsinching* instead of the more widely adopted spelling of *Hsinking*. The former has been chosen because it represents the correct form of native pronunciation.

To the Hsinching Photo Club, the Hsinching Sight-Seeing Association, and the S.M.R. Publicity Department, the Chamber is deeply indebted for many of photographs used herein.

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CONTENTS

	Page
Map of Hsinching	1
Position, Topography, and Climate	3
Origin and Development	6
Capital Construction	9
Water Supply System	13
Sewage Disposal System	14
Transportation Facilities	15
The Economic Phase	16
Commerce	19
Industry	21
An Outline of the Organization of the Government of Manchoukuo	23
An Outline of the Organization of the Hsinching Special Municipality	24
Places of Importance and Interest	26
The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Organization in Manchoukuo	29

MAP OF HSINCHING

POSITION, TOPOGRAPHY, AND CLIMATE

POSITION

Hsinching lies in the heart of Manchoukuo, 704 km northwest of the port of Dairen and 240 kilometres south of Harbin. It is at north latitude 43°15' and east longitude 125°18'. Its terrain rises 214 metres above sea-level.

TOPOGRAPHY

The city is situated in the midst of a vast undulating plain, in a region where the southern tributaries of the Sungari River begin their northward journey. The only peaks visible from the city are the unobtrusive Shihpei-ling mountains far to the southeast. The Itung River which wends its way northward on the eastern part of the city is the only "river-like" body passing through the city. Its inadequate volume of water which is, moreover, completely frozen in winter precludes it as a medium of transportation.

CLIMATE

The climate is continental, having a hot summer and an extremely cold winter. During July when the summer weather is hottest, it is not uncommon to witness, at mid-day, a temperature of 34°C. This, however, is mitigated by the dry atmosphere and invariable drop of temperature during the night. Autumn is suddenly ushered in at the end of August and shifted abruptly by the middle of October. Henceforward until the middle of April of the following year, winter reigns with a frigid grip, dipping the mercury column to as low as 35°C below zero. The bitterness of winter is somewhat alleviated by the cyclic recurrence of 3 cold days and 4 mild days. The first warmth, though slight, is perceptible in March, but it is not until the beginning of May that green foliages make their first appearance. Spring is delightful while it lasts, but before the end of June, the season is again dominated by the summer spell.

THE HSINCHIN STATION PIAZZA IN WINTER

MANCHURIAN BELLES IN SUMMER ATTIRE

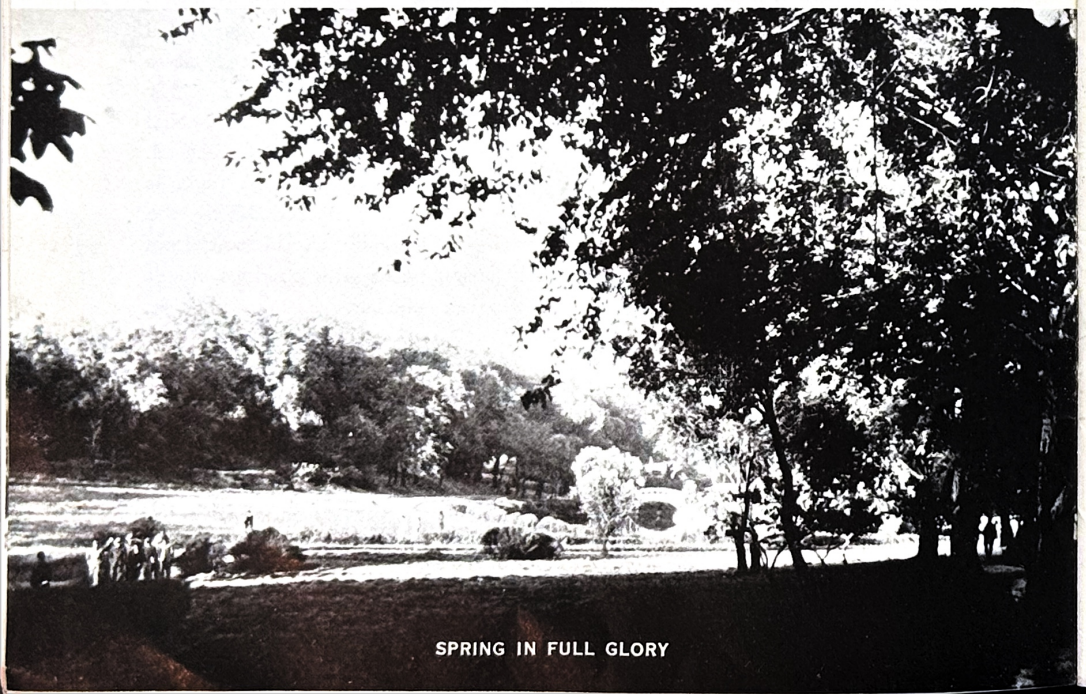
The months of April and May are the windy period. During this period when the wind is most violent, the entire city is enveloped by a dense canopy of brown dusts which virtually darken the heaven. In winter, the sky is limpid-blue and gales are rare.

The first rain of the year starts falling in the latter part of March. The rainy season of Hsinking are June, July and August. In these three months, over 70% of the total annual rainfall is registered. The rainfall here is characterized by the suddenness and frequency of heavy showers. Literally like a bolt from the blue, a clear, blue sky is darkened in an instant with ominous clouds and followed almost immediately by a torrential shower. Its duration is as short as it is sudden.

Snow starts falling from the early part of November, but on the whole the volume of snowfall is very light.

The following table is the average meterological report calculated from data covering a period from 1909 to 1937 :-

Month	Temp. C	Rainfall mm	Rainy or/and Snowy Days	Clear Days
January	(—) 16.9	6.2	5	17
February	(—) 12.6	6.0	5	13
March	(—) 4.2	15.6	6	10
April	6.5	21.9	7	4
May	14.5	54.6	11	4
June	20.1	121.5	15	3
July	23.5	177.7	16	2
August	21.9	137.7	13	5
September	15.0	57.3	10	9
October	6.7	38.7	8	12
November	4.2	17.3	6	12
December	(—) 13.7	6.7	5	16



SPRING IN FULL GLORY

A TEMPLE FAITHFUL TO THE TRADITIONAL TASTE IN SPITE OF THE SWEEPING ARCHITECTURAL TREND

ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT

What is now the city of Hsinching was a century and half ago a desolate grazing area. The first form of community was established 7 kilometres north of the present city at Changchunpu by the Hans. The pioneer settlers of Hsinching were farmers from north China who migrated into this country when the place was opened to settlement by the Ching dynasty in 1791. The virgin lands attracted a greater number of settlers each year because of their fertility. In 1825, a provincial office was established within the present site of Hsinching. Changchun, as the place subsequently became known, soon grew into a sizable town.

To protect the place from the ravages of brigandage then rampant, a huge wall and moat were constructed to encircle the town in 1865, by voluntary contributions of the inhabitants. Unlike the typical checkered Manchurian city, the walled town of Changchun was laid out into an unorthodox nonagonal shape. The wall had 4 large gates at the cardinal points and 4 small gates between these points. In addition to these, there was an equestrian gate, making the total 9. Today, all the gates except the east gate are gone and hardly a vistage of the encircling wall remains.

The economic importance of Hsinching came into prominence for the first time when the southern terminus of the Chinese Eastern Railway was extended from Harbin by Russia to Kuanchengtzu, now a portion of Hsinching lying on the north western section of the city. Hsinching became further conspicuous when the railway line was stretched to Dairen, thus converting

CONTRAST THE OLD AND NEW STREET APPERANCE : THE OLD, CONGESTED WITH SLUGGISH, HORSE CARRIAGES AND LOITERING PEDESTRAINS

Hsinching into a pivotal junction. After the completion of these railway projects, the city witnessed a brisk increase of population so that by 1900, its population surpassed the 70,000 level.

As a result of the Russo-Japanese War, the ownership of the railway running south of Kuanchengtzu to Dairen was transferred to Japan by the Portsmouth Treaty in 1905. The S.M.R. was subsequently established to manage the line. The efficiency and progressive activities of the S.M.R. gave added impetus to the growth of the city.

Changchun became especially famous as the City of Beans in which staple product it was once the largest marketing and distributing center of the country. However, with the close of the World War and the subsequent world-wide depression, the city slumped into a dormant state. The tyrannical oppression and extortion inflicted upon the populace by the war lords controlling the area added further plight to the city.

With the foundation of the new State of Manchoukuo in 1932 as a result of the Manchurian Incident, the city was finally able to extricate itself from the impeding elements. The city was renamed Hsinching when it was selected as the site of the capital of the new State. After that, it witnessed a phenomenal growth and progress parallel with the sound development of the new State. In less than 7 years, the population has almost quadrupled. Hsinching has become indisputedly the political, cultural and economic center of Manchoukuo.

Hsinking today enfolds an area of 437.65 sq. km. and has a population of 411,754 according to the latest census. It enjoys the status of a

THE NEW, TRIM AND ORDERLY

Special Municipality and stands on equal footing, administratively, with a province, the largest unit of division of Manchoukuo.

The city is divided into 12 urban wards and 6 rural wards. The urban wards have a total area of 111.48 sq. kilometres with a population constituting over 85% of that of the entire city. The rural wards have a tota! area of 326.17 sq. kilometres or roughly thrice that of the urban wards. They are composed of scattered agrarian villages with considerable room for development. They are in fact being reserved for future extension of the urbanized area.

According to the census of June, 1939, the population of Hsinching is composed of the following racial groups :-

	Male	Female	Total
Manchurian	181,178	114,049	295,227
Japanese	49,122	39,321	88,443
Korean	6,637	4,595	11,232
Others	482	471	953
Total	237,419	158,436	395,855

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION

The capital construction plan of Hsinching was first drawn up in March, 1933, by the National Capital Construction Bureau which was established by the Government to guide and supervise the building projects of the city, both public and private. To prevent future encumberances from creeping up in the course of development and expansion of the city, a far-sighted and ambitious plan was adopted. The point worthy of note about the plan is that instead of first attempting to reshape and doctor the existing city, it calls for the construction of an entirely new city in the spacious virgin area adjacent to the old city as the basic and initial enterprise of the building scheme. The plan further provides for the future growth of the city into a metropolis of 1,000,000. It does not, however, aim to make immensity the ideal goal but rather stresses the necessity of creating a city most appropriate to the diginity of a national capital, capable of accommodating the political, economic and cultural quarters of the nation, and conducive to the health and spirit of the inhabitants.

The first project fixed upon by the National Capital Construction Bureau affected an area of 100 sq. km in which the development was regarded most pressing and important. The 100 sq. kilometres area has been allocated for the following purposes and in the following proportions :-

TATUNG AVENUE—TODAY, A DRAB FIELD ONLY 8 YEARS AGO

Official & Public use	Area for Govt. bldgs. & public institution	11 sq. km.	55%
	Area for roads & squares	22 sq. km.	
	Area for parks & athletic fields	13 sq. km.	
	Area for military use	9 sq. km.	
Private use	Residential area	28 sq. km.	45%
	Area for commercial purpose	11 sq. km.	
	Area for industrial purpose	6 sq. km.	

As a first stage program in the execution of the plan, a 5-Year Project was launched by the Construction Bureau which understook to develop 21.4 sq. km. of the new area at an estimated cost of ¥34,000,000. This expenditure was to be borned by the National Treasury under its special accounts section. The actual work on the project was begun in March, 1933, and completed in December, 1937, without any serious alteration or hitch to the original plan. The 21.4 sq. km. area completed under the 5-Year Project was devoted for the following purposes :-

Official & Public use	Area for Govt. & public bldgs.	3.1 sq. km.	14%
	Area for streets & squares	4.9 sq. km.	23%
	Area for parks & athletic fields	2.8 sq. km.	13%
Private use	Residential area	5.9 sq. km.	28%
	Area for commercial purpose	2.2 sq. km.	10%
	Area for industrial purpose	2.5 sq. km.	12%

How well the 5-Year Project was executed can be best realized by seeing in person the newly built section of the city where stands today an array of modern edifices, broad thoroughfares, numerous well-planned parks and squares that would compare well with the most modern of occidental cities. The feat is all the more amazing when one considers the fact that less than 8 years ago, the place was nothing but a drab plain.

With the completion of the first stage program, the National Capital Construction Bureau was reorganized in December, 1937, and renamed the Provisional Capital Construction Bureau ; while its control, which was formerly under the Central Government, has been placed under the jurisdiction

A GOOD EXAMPLE OF A TYPICAL STREET INTERSECTION IN THE PLANNED AREA

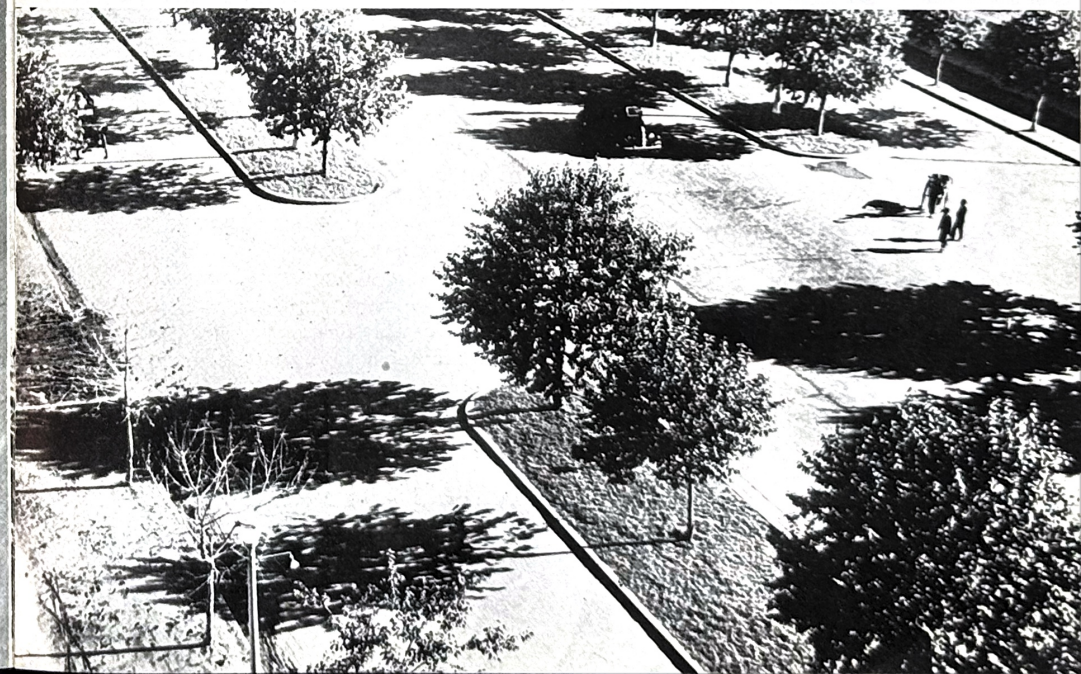
of the Hsinching Special Municipality. A second stage program requiring an expenditure of ¥6,132,997 and embracing a period of 3 years beginning from 1938 was initiated. This 3-Year Project is again to be borned by the National Treasury under its special accounts section. The second stage program chiefly aims to modernize the old section of the city so that it may fall in line with the standard of the new section from which it lags far behind at present.

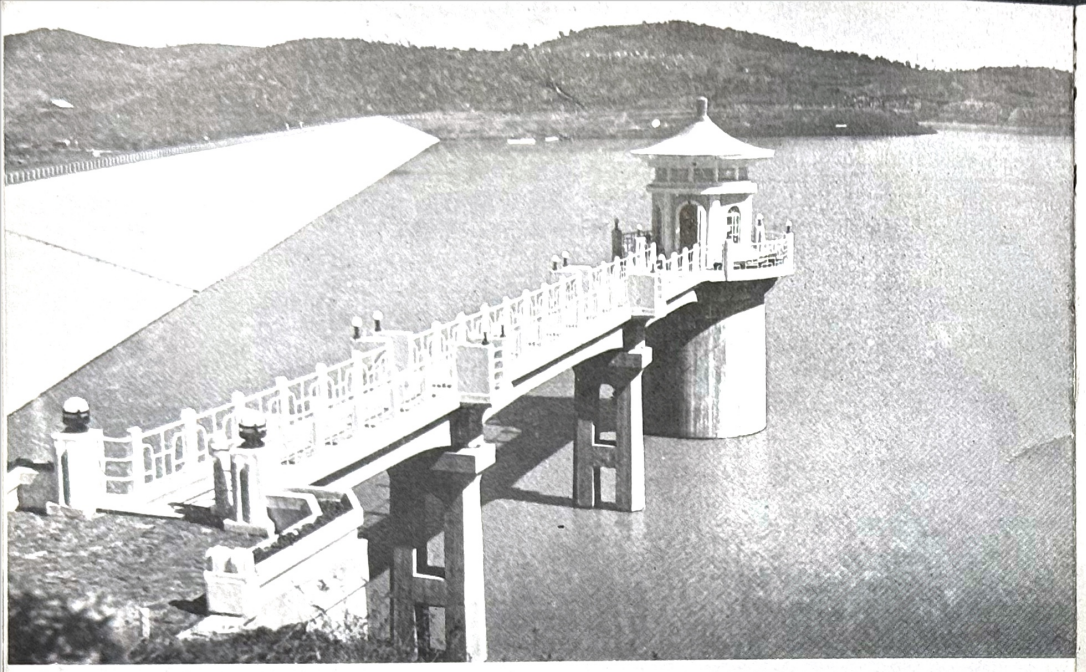
STREET CONSTRUCTION

The fact that more that 21% of the capital construction area has been devoted to street construction is due to the fact that great importance is being placed in this phase of the project for the development of the new area. Spacious boulevards, huge rotary squares and radiating highways today present a striking picture even to those foreign visitors accustomed to the sights of excellent highways.

The streets constructed in the planned area are divided in three classes, namely, main (60 to 26 metres wide), secondary (18 to 10 metres wide), and auxiliary (less than 10 metres wide). The main and secondary streets have a central lane for motor vehicles, a slow traffic lane on each side of the central lane, and side walks. The boundaries between the motor lane, slow vehicle lanes and side walks are usually lined with rows of trees bedded with Kentucky blue grass. Rotary squares built at most of the main street intersections greatly enhance the beauty of the streets by introducing graceful curves to the cubically aligned streets.

A STREET PATTERN MOST COMMON IN THE NEW AREA, NOTE THE TRAFFIC LANES





THE CHINYUETAN RESERVOIR WHICH ASSURES HSINCHING OF ABUNDANT WATER

WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

Aware of the danger of water famines encountered in former days in this district, the authorities concerned took it as a matter of grave importance to assure the city of sufficient water. As a result of a thorough investigation for potential water supply sources, the subterranean strata of Hsinching were found to contain a considerable quantity of water. To utilize this source, twenty wells were sunk in different parts of the city which yielded 11,000 cubic metres of water daily. This was quite sufficient to suffice the need at the time. But with the further growth of the city, other sources of water capable of yielding larger quantities became necessary. A plan was finally drawn up and approved which called for the construction of a reservoir by damming the Hsiao and Tai Rivers, tributaries of the Itung River, capable of supplying an ample volume of water for a population of 500,000. The sum of ¥3,500,000 was appropriated for the project on a two-year construction basis. Work was started on the reservoir in 1933, and completed as scheduled. Though capable of supplying 40,000 cubic metres of water daily, the volume has been cut down to the 20,000 cubic metre capacity of the filtration plant at Nanrin. As this volume plus the auxiliary subterranean supply are far in excess of present water requirements, Hsinching is assured of an abundant water supply for many years to come.

The construction of water mains was started in 1933 and to date 202 km. of pipe lines have been laid down throughout the city. In addition, 735 fire hydrants were placed in various parts of the city.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM

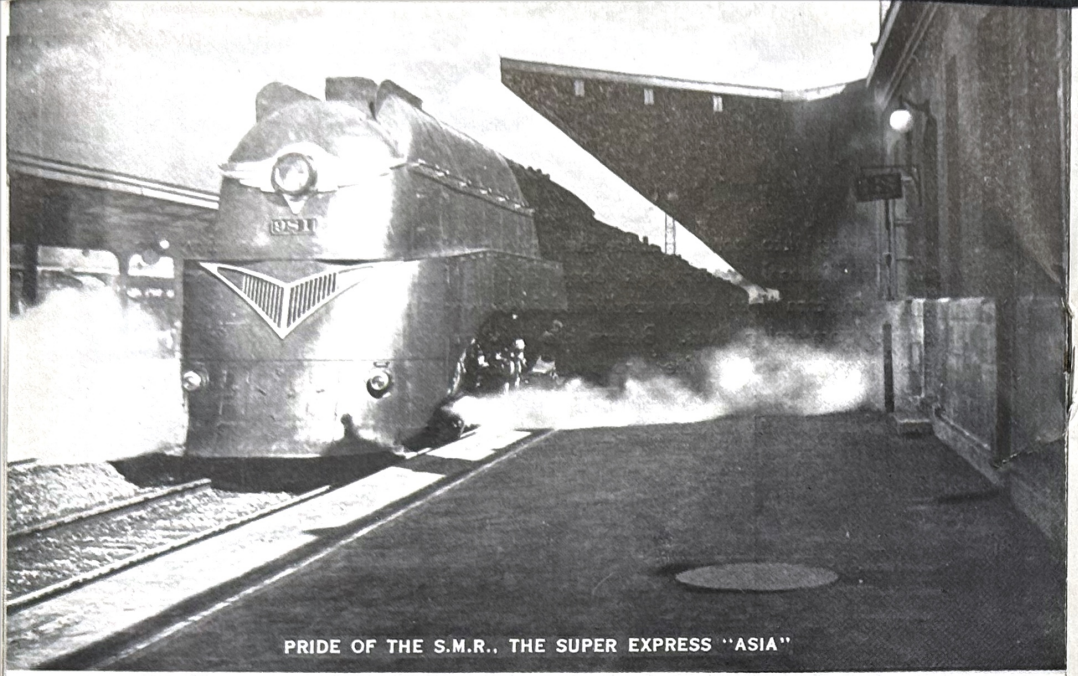
Taking into consideration the topographical features of the city, the sewage disposal system has been divided into 9 independent sections which in turn have been subdivided into over 50 branch systems as tributary or converging lines. Before the new sewage project was laid down there were only two limited areas which had sewage disposal systems. Today, almost every part of the city has a network of sewage lines which in all extend to a length of 302,031 metres, covering an area of 9,490,000 sq. m.

SUBWAY CONSTRUCTION

The construction of tramways has been excluded from the Capital Construction Plan in view of the noise and disfiguring effects created by tramways and their vulnerableness to air raids. In place of tramways, subways are to be constructed under the main traffic lanes of the city.

According to geological tests conducted by subway experts from Japan, the subsoil conditions in Hsinching have been found exceedingly favorable to subway construction. Hence, the actual construction project will be launched within the near future.

THE STATE COUNCIL IN THE FOREGROUND



PRIDE OF THE S.M.R., THE SUPER EXPRESS "ASIA"

TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

The lack of river transportation facilities in Hsinching is more than made up by the ample and efficient railway transportation systems. Hsinching is an important junction of the following railways which are the vital arteries of Manchoukuo :-

Dairen-Hsinching Line
Hsinching-Harbin Line
Hsinching-Tumen Line
Hsinching-Paichentzu Line

With the super express train "Asia", passengers from the port of Dairen can reach Hsinching in 8½ hours and from Hsinching to Harbin in 3½ hours.

In aerial transportation, Hsinching is connected with the various important points of Manchoukuo, China and Korea by the services of the Manchuria Air Transport Company and the Japan Air Transport Company. The latter will link Hsinching and Tokyo direct with a non-stop air route in the near future.

THE ECONOMIC PHASE

Hsinching is undoubtedly the economic hub of Manchoukuo. The majority of the so-called national policy companies which enjoy a special or semi-special status have their headquarters in Hsinching, which by its nature as national capital and its centrally located position, affords great convenience to these establishments in maintaining the necessary contact with the Government as well as with the other districts in which their spheres of interest extend. The companies are in close touch with the Government, collaborating with it in the prosecution of controlled economy. The present striking growth of Hsinching is attributable to a large extent to the growing tendency to concentrate the national policy companies here. To date, there are a total of 31 Special Companies and 18 Semi-Special Companies in Manchoukuo. Of these, as many as 24 Special Companies with an aggregate capital of ¥1,090,000,000 and 12 Semi-Special Companies with a total investment of ¥283,800,000 have their head officies in Hsinching.

A 5-Year Plan which aims to put the essential industries of Manchoukuo on a self-sufficiency basis was launched in 1937 with a fresh outlay of capital totalling ¥2,504,000,000. This sum, according to the Plan, was alloted for the following purposes :-

Mining Industry	¥1,391,000,000
Agriculture	122,000,000
Transportation & Communication . . .	720,000,000
Immigration	274,000,000

However, the China Incident and the recent tense international development necessitated a modification of the Plan. In addition to the original aim, the Plan had to be enlarged to be in tune with the gigantic 4-Year Production Expansion Plan of Japan as well as take into consideration the position of North China for the creation of a harmonious, economic bloc and thus establish a new order in the Orient. After taking into account the actual progress made so far by the first Plan, the project has been converted into a revised 5-Year Plan, approximately doubling the outlay of capital to ¥4,900,000,000 to increase the scale and tempo of the development in every branch of the project. However, special emphasis has been placed in the development of the iron, coal, electric, coal liquifaction, automobile and aircraft industries, whereas in the agricultural development, the Plan, while giving due consideration to the actual agrarian economic condition, aims to maintain a stable output in the essential staple products.

For the execution of the Plan, the Government established a Planning Board, and by promulgation, created 6 committees, namely, the industrial, control, exchange, foreign trade, commodity price and mobilization committees.

A MISTY MORN

To further brace up the 5-Year Plan, the Law for controlling Important Industries was enacted in 1937. This new enactment places on the Government extensive powers of control over the Special and Semi-Special Companies, but in actual practice these companies enjoy an almost unfettered freedom of action in the pursuit of their enterprises, which can be interpreted as evidence of the smooth functioning of the new economic policy of the Government.

The seriously tampered currency of Manchuria before the inauguration of the new Government of Manchoukuo was a cancerous spot in the economic life of the country. To remove this impediment after the expulsion of the sponging military regime, the new State immediately undertook as a matter of urgent necessity the adjustment and control of currency by stabilizing the monetary system, unifying notes, adjusting old notes, and controlling monetary organs throughout the country. The Central Bank of Manchou was established in Hsinching in 1932 to shoulder the brunt of this stupendous task. In 1935, the Industrial Bank of Manchou was established to accommodate, among other things, the financial requirment of industrial concerns as well as the need for long-term credits. These two banking houses constitute the two largest banking institutions of Manchoukuo. Almost as widely influential but smaller in scale and created to meet the need of the poorer classes is the unique, Government-sanctioned financial institution, the Tahsing Konsu. It is singular in that one of its most important functions is the granting of loans to the needy by means of pawn transactions on a very low interest rate with a relatively long term of maturity. Besides the three, there are numerous other banks and related institutions with either headquarters or branches here to make Hsinching the leading banking center of the nation.

The undeniably sound monetary system and healthy economic outlook of the country, today, reflect to the signal success of the Government's economic and financial policies.

COMMERCE

Hsinching first sprang into prominence commercially when in 1908 Manchurian soya beans exported from this city were recognized for their economic value in the markets of Europe. At the height of its prosperity in 1920 when soya beans were exported from Hsinching to the amount of 688,000 tons, the city ranked topmost in Manchuria and fittingly won for itself the title of "The City of Beans". But today the city has slumped into insignificance so far as soya beans are concerned, exporting now but a small fraction of its former amount. This decline, as previously mentioned, was first due to the effect of the agrarian plight here, and to the irresponsible attitude of the military regime. The later continual decline, however, can be traced to the fact that the development of railway facilities further inland from Hsinching since the establishment of Manchoukuo has tended to decentralize the soya bean markets which were formerly concentrated in this city.

THE MANCHURIAN TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH CO. IN THE FOREGROUND. LOCATED HERE IS THE POWERFUL RADIO STATION, MTCY.

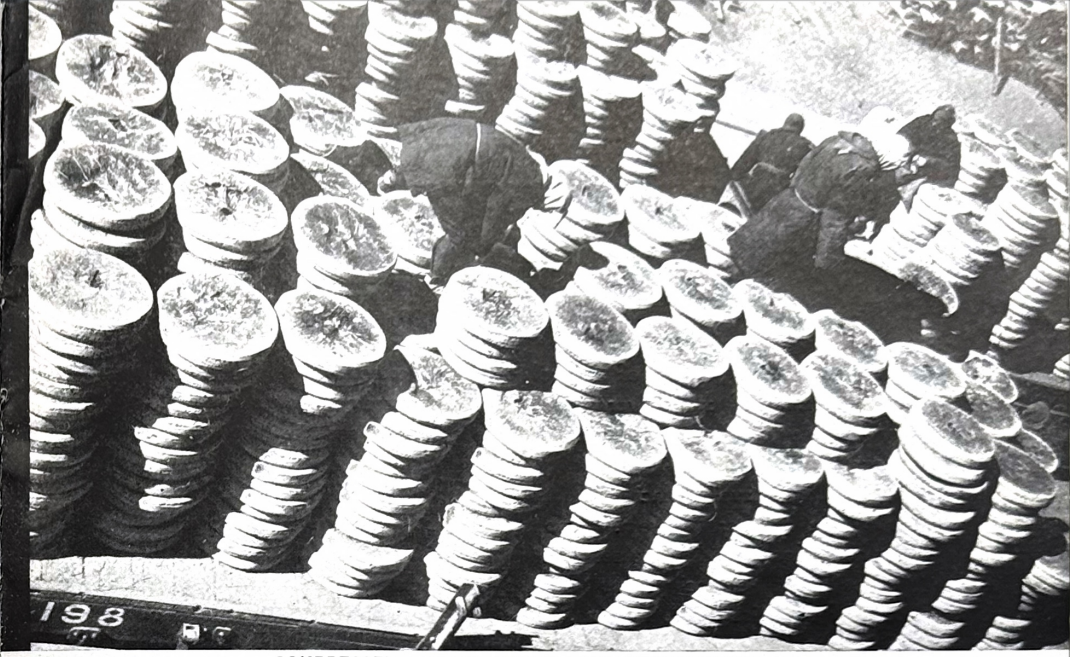
Next to soya beans in importance came lumber which was once a large item of export here, but with the establishment and development of Manchoukuo and the subsequent huge demand for lumber within the country, this once item of export has become an item of import today. Maize, millet and buckwheat can be cited as other important export items.

The chief imports are cotton textiles, sugar, marine products, fruits, pottery and sundries. Lately, building materials and machinery have also become important items.

Exports to and imports from Japan constitute by far the largest portion of the total foreign trade of Hsinching. Following Japan in the order of importance for their importation of Hsinching products are Germany, Great Britain and the U. S. A. The countries ranking after Japan for exports to Hsinching are Great Britain, the U. S. A. and Germany.

THE CENTRAL BANK OF MANCHOU

SOYA BEANS, BAGGED AND READY FOR SHIPMENT



COMPRESSED BEAN CAKES-RICH ORGANIC FERTILIZERS

INDUSTRY

The industrial development of a city is, needless to say, not an accidental process. It depends fundamentally upon the inherent nature of the environment of the city, and upon the initiative, ability, and efforts of the inhabitants. Hsinching was unfortunate in respect to the latter human factors which were no doubt throttled by the lack of real order and feeling of security here in the past. Hence, though blessed with forest, agricultural and live-stock products for the development of manufacturing industries dependent upon these materials, Hsinching was not able to develop, up until recently, further than as a purely local requirement manufacturing center. But with the birth of the state of Manchoukuo and the establishment of the national capital in Hsinching and the consequent stabilizing effect, the city began bustling with a new spirit of vitality, giving rise to new industrial enterprises on a more ambitious scale than hitherto undertaken.

During the days when this city was known as Changchun, there were three major industries here. They were the brewing, oil extracting (vegetable), and soya bean processing industries. All three today have declined into comparative unimportance. Flour milling and tobacco manufacturing are the two industries which have leaped into prominence lately. There are also in Hsinching such industries as rice polishing, weaving, lumber, match, brick, soap, candle, and metal ware manufactures, all on rather small scales, but with a promising future for expansion by virtue of the propinquity of the city to a rich farming belt containing a population of about 5,000,000 inhabitants.

What will be, when completed, one of the largest hydro-electric, power dam in the world is now under construction on the Sungari River at a point near the city of Chirin. The dam construction was started in 1936, on a 5-year basis at an estimated cost of ¥150,000,000 by the Government. It will have a 600,000 kilowatt-hour capacity electric plant when fully completed. According to the project, the generated power will be distributed to as far as Mukden and Harbin. As Hsinching lies within 130 kilometres from the dam, it will be in an easily accessible sphere of the distribution. This will make available cheap and abundant electricity here. The future therefore holds much in store for the industrial development of Hsinching.

AN OUTLINE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MANCHOUKUO

The Government of Manchoukuo is based on a constitutional monarchy. The sovereign head of the State is the Emperor who is vested by the Organic Law with powers of control over the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the Government and is the supreme commander of the Army and Navy. The Privy Council is the advisory organ to the Emperor in matters affecting the State.

The Legislative Council is a body that may be ascribed as the Upper House in a bicameral system. Among its chief duties are the endorsement of laws, budgets, and agreements.

The State Council forms the nucleus of the Government. It is the center of administration, and has, as its executive head, the Prime Minister, who is the highest representative of the Emperor in State affairs. There are six departments under the jurisdiction of the State Council, namely, the Departments of Public Peace, People's Welfare, Justice, Industry, Economics, and Communication. Each Department is presided by a Minister. Also under the State Council are the General Affairs Board, the Foreign Office, and various other bodies relating to administrative matters. The General Affairs Board has the vital role of formulating Government policies and coordinating the functions of the various Departments and Bureaus.

ANOTHER INTERESTING VIEW OF THE STATE COUNCIL

THE SPECIAL MUNICIPALITY OFFICE

AN OUTLINE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE HSINCHING SPECIAL MUNICIPALITY

With the abolition of extraterritoriality in Manchoukuo and the transfer of the S.M.R. Special Railway Zone to the Government, the Special Municipality Decree was enacted to elevate the status of Hsinching to befit its position as National Capital, while the Decree at the same time abolished the Special Municipality status of Harbin which that city formerly enjoyed.

The Hsinching Special Municipality is headed by a Mayor who is installed into office through appointment by the Central Government. A Consulting Committee consisting of 15 members appointed by the Mayor on an honorary basis constitutes the chief advisory organ to the Mayor with regard to the needs and conditions of the various wards of the city. The Mayor is assisted by a Deputy Mayor who has charge of the five departments of the Municipality, namely, the Secretariat, Administration Department, Sanitation Department, Finance Department, and Industrial Department.

Listed below are some of the chief social enterprises and public facilities managed by the Special Municipality.

1. Charity and social enterprises
   (1) Home for the aged and orphans
   (2) Employment agency

(3) Sanatorium
(4) Municipal housing accommodations

2. Educational institutions
(1) 31 primary schools (including 1 Russian & 1 Korean schools)
(2) 2 Manchurian high schools for boys
(3) 1 Manchurian high school for girls
(4) 1 public library

3. Health and recreation facilities
(1) 7 parks
(2) 1 combined athletic and recreation field
(3) 1 special hospital for women
(4) 1 contagious disease institution

4. Transportation facilities
Bus service. (There are no tramways in Hsinching)

5. Marketing facilities
Central Wholesale Market

IN A TEMPLE COMPOUND

Perhaps it is worth noting here that the Metropolitan Police Board is a special police organ directly responsible to the Prime Minister and independent of the Special Municipality but charged with the task of maintaining order and peace in the National Capital. The Fire Department is under its supervision.

PARKS ABOUND IN HSINCHING

PLACES OF IMPORTANCE AND INTEREST IN HSINCHING

THE IMPERIAL PALACE

Rising on a commanding elevation in the northeastern section of the city is the temporary Imperial Palace of his Majesty, Emperor Kangte. A permanent Palace is now under construction on a most elaborate scale in the southern section of the city. It will require 8 years for completion.

THE STATE COUNCIL

The State Council is situated next to the construction site of the new Imperial Palace. It is one of the most imposing buildings in Hsinching.

THE SUPREME COURT

The home of the Supreme Court is outstanding for its size and more particularly for its uniqueness of design. The architecture of the building may be characterized by the rotundity of the outline and the reflection of firmness in the whole structure.

THE FOREIGN OFFICE

The Foreign Office building is interesting in that it is the only Go-

vernment building in Hsinching designed by an occidental architect. Though modest in scale, it is conspicuous by its chateau-like resemblance. This undoubtedly reflects the propensity of the French architect who was responsible for the design.

THE CONCORDIA ASSOCIATION

The central organ of the Concordia Association is located at the northern corner of Tatung Park. The Association has branches in all parts of Manchoukuo, and is the largest and by far the most influential civic organization in Manchoukuo. Though non-official in character, it has the full support of the Government and as its name implies, endeavours to establish peace and harmony among all the races in Manchoukuo.

FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC ORGANS

The Japanese Embassy, and the German and Italian Legations are the leading foreign diplomatic organs in Hsinching. The Embassy is located in the huge Kwantung Army Headquarters building at the northern end of Tatung Avenue, while the Legations are situated side by side on Hsiwanshau Avenue.

TATUNG AVENUE

Tatung Avenue is the pride of the planned area in which it forms the chief artery of traffic. This wide, well-paved avenue runs in a straight,

HSINCHING IS ABREAST IN SPORTS FACILITIES, TOO

north and south direction. Flanking on both sides of the avenue are rows of large, modern buildings housing the leading financial, commercial and industrial organizations of the country. The central stretch of the avenue is intercepted by the spacious Tatung Square which in reality constitutes a circular park bordered by an encircling highway, a good mile in length.

PARKS AND RECREATION GROUNDS

Hsinching is perhaps one of the richest park-laid cities in the world. Parks completed to date number seven, representing more than 7% of the total planned area. Lakes created for rowing during the balmy season in most of these parks become natural skating rinks in winter.

An 18-hole golf links and a commodious race course are located within the city. An all-inclusive Athletic field with separate facilities for track and field events, rugby, baseball, basketball, football, and horsemanship is now nearing completion at the southern part of Tatung Avenue. Also located here is the site for a combined zoological and botanical garden which will be, when completed, the largest of its kind in the world.

HIGHER EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

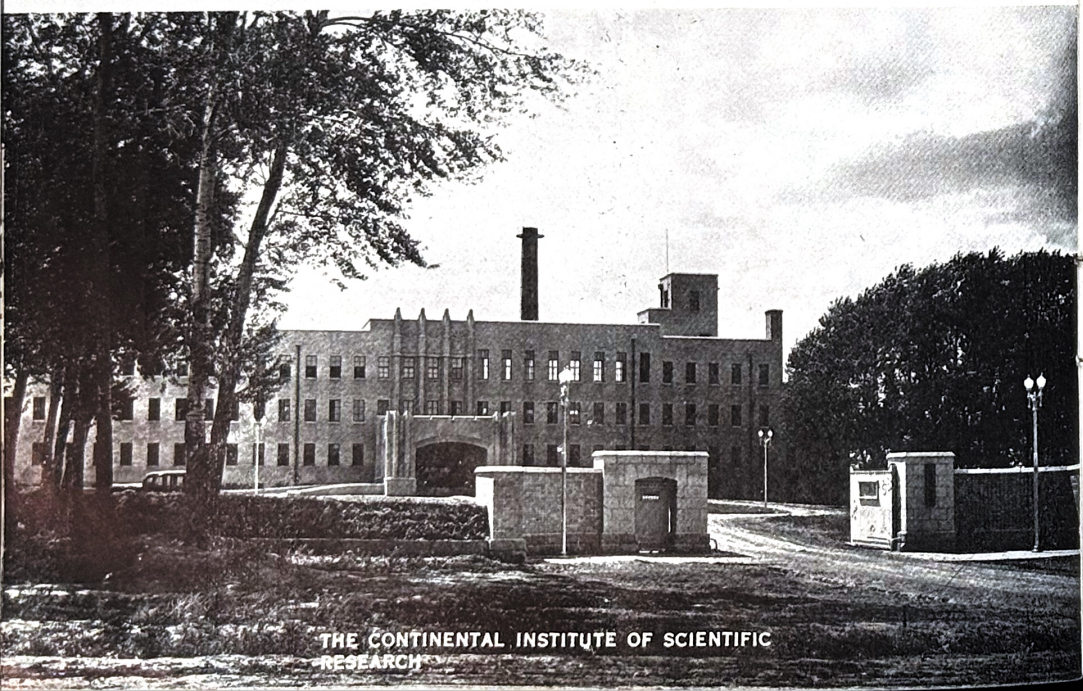
The Tatung College, the Chien Kuo College, the Hsinching Medical College, the Central Teachers' Training Institute, the Department of Justice Law School, the Agricultural and Forestry Experts' Training Institute, and the Manchurian Mining Institute are among the chief higher educational institutions in Hsinching. Especially worthy of note are the Tatung College which is an institution for the training of students for public service, and the Chien Kuo College, for the training of leaders in the spiritual and moral uplift movement of the country.

The Continental Institute of Scientific Research, a Government-supported laboratory, is noteworthy for the many scientific contributions it has made for the development of industries in Manchoukuo.

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ORGANIZATION IN MANCHOUKUO

The present Chamber of Commerce and Industry organization of Manchoukuo is comparatively new, with a history of less than 2 years behind it. Before its establishment, the Manchurian business men were affiliated with the Shang Wu Hui or Merchant Society. As an organization, it was the nearest approach to the Chamber of Commerce. The Society was composed of merchants of every class. Its president and other officers were almost invariably influential business leaders. There were as many as 251 of these Merchant Societies in the country. In many ways, the Merchant Society supplemented the deficiency of the corrupt Provincial Government, and was a great stabilizing factor of the community. As banditry was rampant in the country, the Society gave substantial financial support to the police force to strengthen the maintainance of peace and order. It also contributed towards the construction of roads, relief of the poor, and other civic and charitable missions.

The Japanese merchants in Manchuria were affiliated with business associations of their own, such as the Shoko Kai Gisho or chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Jitsugyo Kai or Business Society. These bodies were established in the former South Manchuria Railway Zone and were actively devoted to the development of the country. But due to the numerical weakness of their memberships, these organizations were not able



THE CONTINENTAL INSTITUTE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

to undertake larger-scale constructive activities.

Among the profound changes brought about by the creation of the new State of Manchoukuo, one of the most notable was tha rapid industrial development of the country from a purely agricultural state. This dovelopment was in no small degree attributable to the execution of the Principles of Economic Construction as proclaimed by the Government in march, 1933. These Principles, in short, stress the necessity of exerting a certain amount of control over national economy to avoid the baneful effects of unbridled capitalistic activities so that a healthy and rationalized economic development can be realized in the interest of the entire nation. They were later legally incorporated as the Law for the Control os Important Industries. The Law was enacted for the purpose of enabling the Government to give positive national assistance and encouragament to the vital industries, and thereby increase the productive capacity of the country.

To further brace the development and encouragement of commerce and industry, it was deemed in Government quarters that an organ in close contact with the Government and easily accessible to the business and industrial circles was necessary. After due deliberation, the State Council finally passed the Manchoukuo Chamber of Commerce and Industry Law in December, 1937.

This Law may be charaterized by the following clauses:—

STATUS:

The Chamber shall have the status of a juridical person

CHAMBER TAX:

It shall have the power of levying and collecting a Chamber supporting tax against business profit or capital of business establishments located within the city in which it is situated, at a rate subject to approval by the Minister of Economics

MEMBERSHIP:

Individuals or bodies having the following qualifications shall be eligible for member-ship

Firms or companies with head-office, branch office or other forms of business establishments in the city in which the Chamber is located and paying a Chamber tax above a certain minimum; and individuals or organizations specified for membership by the Minister of Economics.

THE COUNCIL:

The Chamber shall have a body of Councillors appointed by the

Minister of Economics or by a Selection Committee chosen for that purpose by the forementioned Minister. These Councillors shall hold office on an honorary basis for a term of four years.
Matters relating to Chamber budgets, account and expenditure reports, appointment of Chamber advisors, and other vital matters affecting the Chamber are subject to the approval of this body.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS :

The executive officers of the Chamber shall consist of one President, one to three Vice Presidents and not more than ten directors. These officers shall be appointed by the Minister of Economics for a term of four years on an honorary basis, but the Chamber shall have the power of designating directors to serve on a full time basis.

ACTIVITIES :

The Chamber shall carry on the following activities-

1. Act as a medium of connection between Government and business circles in the adjustment of commerce and industry
2. When necessary, intervene and arbitrate in matters affecting trade and industry
3. Investigate commercial and industrial conditions and make suitable recommendations ; and undertake other related activities.

In response to this Law, Chambers of Commerce and Industry were promptly established in the various cities of the country, and at the same time, the old Manchurian and Japanese business organs were merged with the newly created institutions. As a result of this merger, the Manchurian and Japanese business men became associated under one organ. Today, there are as many as 140 Chambers of Commerce and Industry in this country.

To throw light on the nature of the organization, the Hsinching Chamber shall be taken for illustiation. This Chamber was established on April 1, 1938. It has a total of 4,099 membets, of whom 2,494 are Manchurians and 2,376 Japanese. Its council is composed of 50 members, while its executive body is composed of one President, three Vice Presidnnts, and ten Directors. Two of the Directors serve on a full time basis to supervise the Secretariat. The Secretariat is composed of about 60 members. It is divided into six sections, namely, the General Affairs, Investigation, Commerce & Industry, Data, Accounts, and Publicity Sections. The Chamber also has a Trade and Industry Consulting Bureau as an auxiliary Section. Mr. Ting Chien Shiu, President of the Manchuria Electric Corporation and former Minister of Industry, is the President of the Hsinching Chamber of Commerce. His appointment to the Presidential office of the Chamber

on doubt reflect the importance placed in this centrally located Chamber by the Government.

Like the reaction everywhere towards any new institution, there were much doubt and mistrust in the capacity and aims of the new Chamber organization. First of all, grave doubt was held as to the feasibility of harmoniously aligning the Manchurian and Japanese members under one institution on account of the difference in culture and language between the two. Some harbored fear that the Chamber was established mainly in favor of the larger capitalistic concerns. Others regarded the Chamber as an organ of the Government created by it solely for the purpose of business surveillance.

However, after only a year of existence, the Chambers were able to win the full confidence of the various business circles. What is most heartening is the fact that the Manchurian and Japanese members are mutually contributing towards the aims of the Chamber in a most friendly atmosphere.

Under the auspices of the Hsinching Chamber, the first All-Manchoukuo Chambers of Commerce and Industry Meeting was held in Hsinching this year from November 7th to 9th. Over 400 Chamber representatives attended the Meeting. In view of the importance of the Meeting, high officials of the Department of Economics and the Department of Industry also participated in the Meeting. For three full days, the Meeting brimmed with the zeal and enthusiasm of every participant. Opinions were candidly presented and poignant subjects thrashed. As a result, many doubtful points were clarified, and the representatives were able to return with a clear grasp of their future mission. The Meeting was indeed a great success, with undoubtedly no parallel abroad to match it in significance.

It is clear today that the Government quarters are counting on the Chambers as an indispensable organization for the smooth execution of controlled economy. The Manchoukuo Chambers are therefore worthy of serious attention for those interested in the study of the economic progress of this country.

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